

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A floatable dry dock for lifting a vessel in or out of the water, the dry dock comprising:

a buoyant base having one or more buoyant hulls,

a lifting cradle, having two spaced arms pivotally mounted on one buoyant base, one or more floatation tanks interconnecting the arms, and

a platform mounted on the arms for supporting the vessel during lifting or lowering of the vessel into or out of the water, and

a platform support means operable to ensure that the platform remains horizontal when the arms pivot about their pivotal attachment to the base,

wherein the vessel is lowered and raised by pivoting the lifting cradle with respect to the buoyant base and

wherein, during lifting and lowering of vessel, the combined area at the interface between the water surface and the air of the vessel, the one or more hulls and the arms remains substantially constant and thereby stabilizes the dry dock.

13. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein the arms are of an arcuate shape and there is a plurality of elongate flotation tanks extending between the arms to define a part cylindrical cradle.

14. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein the base comprises a catamaran hull.

15. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein the base comprises a sidewall located at each end of the hulls of the base and the pivot about which the arms rotate is located on an axis between the hulls that extends along the length of the hulls.

16. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein a single floatable cradle is mounted on the base.

17. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein two spaced floatable cradles are mounted on the base.

18. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein the arms comprise inflatable buoyancy tanks.

19. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein the platform is pivotally mounted between the arms, and the platform support means comprises:

pairs of extendable and contractable links, the links being operable to expand or contract during lifting or lowering to ensure that the platform remains horizontal relative to its axis of pivotal mounting on the arms when the arms are raised or lowered.

20. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 19 wherein the platform is of generally rectangular shape and one link of each pair of links is provided at a corner of the platform and the other link of each pair of links is provided at a respective opposite corner of the platform.

21. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 19 wherein:
the arms are elongate arms mounted at one end on the base and having a buoyancy tank provided at a second end of the arms, and
the platform is mounted on a pivot at a region intermediate the ends of the arm.

22. (Currently Amended) A floatable dry dock as in Claim 12 wherein the platform has wheels at an extremity of the platform and the platform support means comprises an arcuate track on each arm, along which the wheels of the platform run when the arms are pivoted while maintaining the platform in a horizontal-altitude attitude.

23. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 22 wherein the arms are of an arcuate shape and there is a plurality of elongate flotation tanks extending between the arms to define a part cylindrical cradle.

24. (Currently Amended) A dry dock as in Claim 22 wherein the base comprises a catamaran hull.

25. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 22 wherein the base comprises a sidewall located at each end of the hulls of the base and the pivot about which the arms rotate is located on an axis between the hulls that extends along the length of the hulls.

26. (Previously Presented) A floatable dry dock comprising:
a lifting cradle having two spaced arms pivotally mounted on a buoyant base,
one or more flotation tanks interconnecting the arms,
a platform mounted on the arms, and
platform support means operable to ensure that the platform remains horizontal when the arms pivot about their pivotal attachment to the base.

27. (Currently Amended) A dry dock as in Claim 26, wherein:
the platform has wheels at an extremity of the platform, and

the platform support means comprises an arcuate track on each arm along which the wheels of the platform run when the arms are pivoted while maintaining the platform in a horizontal-altitude attitude.

28. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 26 wherein:
the arms are of an arcuate shape, and
there is a plurality of elongate floatation tanks extending between the arms to define a part cylindrical cradle.

29. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 26 wherein:
the platform is pivotally mounted between the arms, and
the platform support means comprises pairs of extendable and contractable links, one link of each pair of links being operable to expand when the other link of the pair contracts, and the links being operable to ensure that the platform remains horizontal relative to its axis of pivotal mounting on the arms.

30. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 29 wherein the platform is of generally rectangular shape and one link of each pair of links is provided at a corner of the platform and the other link of each pair of links is provided at a respective opposite corner of the platform.

31. (Previously Presented) A dry dock as in Claim 29 wherein:
the arms are elongate arms mounted at one end on the base,
a buoyancy tank is provided at a second end of the arms, and
the platform is mounted on a pivot at a region intermediate the ends of the arms.